



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5127

LCO No. 1347

01347_____PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF BOXING AND WRESTLING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 21a-195a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut [Boxing Promotion] Athletic
4 Commission which shall be within the Department of [Consumer
5 Protection for administrative purposes only] Public Safety. The
6 commission shall consist of nine members, three to be appointed by
7 the Governor, one to be appointed by the speaker of the House of
8 Representatives, one to be appointed by the president pro tempore of
9 the Senate, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the House of
10 Representatives, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the
11 Senate, one to be appointed by the minority leader of the House of
12 Representatives and one to be appointed by the minority leader of the
13 Senate. The initial appointments to the commission shall be made not
14 later than November 1, 1998. Notwithstanding the provisions of
15 subsection (c) of section 4-9a, as amended, the terms of each member of
16 the commission shall be coterminous with the term of the appointing

17 authority or until a successor is chosen, whichever is later. The
18 appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of
19 the term. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
20 for their services. The commission shall hold at least one meeting each
21 quarter.

22 (b) The commission shall make recommendations to the Governor,
23 the Commissioner of [Consumer Protection] Public Safety, the
24 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
25 General Assembly, upon the request thereof or at such time or times as
26 the commission may determine, to encourage, develop and promote
27 the [sport] sports of boxing and wrestling in this state. Such
28 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Identifying
29 any legal or administrative impediments to the development of the
30 sport of boxing or wrestling in this state; (2) identifying ways to
31 improve state and local services designed to support and promote
32 boxing or wrestling; (3) identifying ways of developing young boxers
33 and wrestlers through amateur boxing and wrestling clubs and other
34 programs; [and] (4) developing strategies to assist promoters of small-
35 scale professional boxing and wrestling events and to aid in the
36 development of a market for large-scale professional boxing and
37 wrestling events in this state; and (5) developing ways to protect the
38 health and safety of participants in boxing or wrestling.

39 Sec. 2. Section 21a-196 of the general statutes is repealed and the
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

41 (a) As used in this chapter, "commissioner" means the
42 Commissioner of [Consumer Protection] Public Safety.

43 (b) The commissioner shall have sole control of and jurisdiction over
44 all boxing matches and wrestling exhibitions held, conducted or given
45 within the state by any person or persons, club, corporation or
46 association, [except] including amateur boxing matches or wrestling
47 exhibitions held under the supervision of any school, college or
48 university having an academic course of study or of the recognized

49 athletic association connected with such school, college or university
50 or amateur boxing matches and wrestling exhibitions held under the
51 auspices of any amateur athletic association. [that has been determined
52 by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health and safety of
53 the participants; provided the commissioner may at any time assume
54 jurisdiction over any amateur boxing match or wrestling exhibition if
55 the commissioner determines that the health and safety of the
56 participants is not being sufficiently safeguarded.] The commissioner
57 may appoint inspectors who shall, on the order of the commissioner,
58 represent the commissioner at all boxing matches and wrestling
59 exhibitions. The commissioner may appoint a secretary who shall
60 prepare for service such notices and papers as may be required and
61 perform such other duties as the commissioner directs.

62 (c) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized
63 representative may: (1) Issue subpoenas to any person involved in any
64 matter under investigation pursuant to this chapter; (2) subpoena
65 documentary material relating to any such matter; (3) administer an
66 oath or affirmation to any person; or (4) conduct hearings in aid of any
67 such investigation, provided none of the powers conferred by this
68 chapter shall be used for the purpose of compelling any natural person
69 to furnish testimony or evidence which might tend to incriminate the
70 person or subject the person to a penalty or forfeiture. If any person
71 fails or refuses to obey any such subpoena, the commissioner, after
72 giving notice, may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of
73 Hartford which court, after a hearing, may issue an order requiring
74 such person to obey such subpoena or any part of such subpoena. Any
75 disobedience of a final order of any court under this section shall be
76 punished as contempt.

77 (d) The commissioner shall adopt such regulations in accordance
78 with chapter 54 as the commissioner deems necessary and desirable
79 for the conduct, supervision and safety of boxing and wrestling
80 matches, including the licensing of the sponsors and the participants of
81 such [boxing] matches, and for the development and promotion of the

82 sport of boxing and wrestling in this state, including, but not limited
83 to, regulations to improve the competitiveness of the sport of boxing
84 and wrestling in this state relative to other states and regulations to
85 protect the health and safety of participants. Such regulations shall
86 require fees for the issuance of licenses to such sponsors and
87 participants as follows: (1) For referees, a fee of not less than
88 sixty-three dollars; (2) for matchmakers and assistant matchmakers, a
89 fee of not less than sixty-three dollars; (3) for timekeepers, a fee of not
90 less than thirteen dollars; (4) for professional boxers or wrestlers, a fee
91 of not less than thirteen dollars; (5) for amateur boxers or wrestlers, a
92 fee of not less than three dollars; (6) for managers, a fee of not less than
93 sixty-three dollars; (7) for trainers, a fee of not less than thirteen
94 dollars; (8) for seconds, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (9) for
95 announcers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; and (10) for
96 promoters, a fee of not less than two hundred fifty dollars.

97 (e) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the commissioner,
98 may enter into a contract with any person for the services of such
99 person acting as an inspector appointed in accordance with the
100 provisions of this section.

101 (f) The commissioner may disallow the conduct of any professional
102 wrestling exhibition if the commissioner determines that the health
103 and safety of the participants is not being sufficiently safeguarded.

104 Sec. 3. Section 21a-198 of the general statutes is repealed and the
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

106 (a) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, issue a
107 license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or wrestling match to any
108 person, persons, club, corporation or association. Before any such
109 license is granted, the applicant shall execute and file with the
110 commissioner a bond in such amount and form and with such surety
111 as is determined by the commissioner, which bond shall be
112 conditioned for the payment of the tax imposed by section 21a-199.
113 Upon the filing and approval of such bond, the commissioner shall

114 issue to such applicant a certificate of such filing and approval. No
115 license shall be issued under this section until such bond is filed.

116 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke
117 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or wrestling match
118 issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or in any
119 regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with chapter 54.

120 Sec. 4. Section 21a-203a of the general statutes is repealed and the
121 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

122 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing match or
123 wrestling exhibition conducted, held or given within this state, except
124 amateur boxing or wrestling exhibitions held under the supervision of
125 any school, college or university having an academic course of study
126 or of the recognized athletic association connected with such school,
127 college or university or amateur boxing or wrestling exhibitions held
128 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been
129 determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health
130 and safety of the participants. All such referees shall be licensed by the
131 commissioner under this chapter and the regulations adopted by the
132 commissioner under this chapter, in accordance with chapter 54.

133 Sec. 5. Section 21a-205 of the general statutes is repealed and the
134 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

135 (a) No person shall engage in any boxing or wrestling match as a
136 boxer or wrestler until such person has been examined and found to
137 be physically fit by a competent physician approved by the
138 commissioner, licensed to practice under the laws of this state and in
139 practice in this state for at least two years. Such physician shall be
140 appointed by the commissioner and shall be in attendance throughout
141 the boxing or wrestling match for which such examination was made.
142 Such physician shall certify, in writing, that the contestant is physically
143 fit to engage in such [boxing] match. Any fee for such physician, as
144 determined by the commissioner, shall be paid by the person or club,

145 corporation or association conducting such [boxing] match.

146 (b) The cost of any physical examination required by this chapter or
 147 regulations adopted under this chapter, other than an examination
 148 required by subsection (a) of this section, may be assessed by the
 149 commissioner on any boxer or wrestler examined by a physician
 150 appointed by the commissioner or on the person, club, corporation or
 151 association conducting the next [boxing] match in which the contestant
 152 is scheduled to compete.

153 Sec. 6. Subdivision (14) of section 21a-6 of the general statutes is
 154 repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2006*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-195a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-196
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-198
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-203a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-205
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To strengthen state oversight over the sports of boxing and wrestling.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]